

National standards won't improve academic outcomes because they won't fix the fundamental misalignment in American education today. Its power and incentive structure disenfranchises parents and taxpayers due to a monopoly public education system that has little incentive to be responsive to the needs of families. It further centralizes control of education at the Department of Education, forcing schools to comply with Washington's demands instead of being accountable to parents and taxpayers. National standards and tests would completely remove parents from the education decision-making process. To strengthen class content and standards the opposite approach should be used.

Testifying before the House Education and Workforce Committee, Jay P. Green, University of Arkansas professor noted: "The best way to produce high academic standards and better student learning is by DECENTRALIZING the process of determining standards, curriculum and assessments. When we have choice and competition among different sets of standards, curricula, and assessments, they tend to improve in quality to better suit student needs and result in better outcomes" He went on to explain that centralized standards lack a mechanism for continual improvement and warned that they are nearly impossible to amend once implemented.

National standards will result in the standardization of mediocrity. The same pressures that have caused states to water down the rigor of their standards—by education unions and federal sanctions, among others will also afflict Common Core national standards.

Per the U.S. Constitution, education is the domain of states and local school districts. Three laws prohibit the federal government from creating or prescribing national curriculum: No Child Left Behind, the Department of Education Organization Act and the General Education Provisions Act.

Lastly, what is the estimated cost to Connecticut to implement and maintain Common Core? Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research estimates that the cost to cover the massive standards and assessments overhaul will be four times the amount of money awarded to states through Race to the Top. Washington states' cost to taxpayers is estimated at \$300 million, California \$1.6 billion and Texas \$3 billion. Do we have an estimate for Connecticut?

Respectfully submitted,  
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